

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 11, and ending at page 6, line 16, as follows:

Referring now to Figures 5-7 in the drawings, end adapter 315a is illustrated prior to being captured during the process of manufacturing composite tube 313. It should be understood that any discussion or description herein of end adapter 315a applies equally to end adapter 315b, and vice versa. End adapter 315a is preferably formed from a metallic material, such as aluminum, titanium, or steel, but may be formed from any other suitable rigid material, including non-metallic material.